
From: House Finance
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:01 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: HB 141 - Documents in Support - Letter 3/15/17

Helen can you please add to the file?

Jane

From: Richard Ericson [<mailto:rickandbarb@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: TVEP

Thank you for your past support of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) and the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP). The TVEP funds are used by AVTEC to deliver career and technical training to Alaskans from across the state. Each year, AVTEC trains over 300 Alaskans from 150 different communities in long-term training and an additional 1,300 Alaskans access short term training for increased skills and job advancement.

AVTEC students complete their training at a rate that is higher than the national average. Over 88% of students enrolled in long-term training programs complete and 90% of them are employed in training-related jobs within 18 months of completion of their program. AVTEC graduates are successfully supporting families and contributing to Alaska's economy.

On behalf of AVTEC and the students yet to enroll, I am writing to ask for your support for the reauthorization of the TVEP program at the current distribution level. AVTEC and other career and technical education providers who have received TVEP funds have been effective in increasing employment and Alaska resident hire. Reauthorization of this program will enable them to continue to train Alaskans for jobs in Alaska.

Given that TVEP funds are a percentage of employee contributions to Unemployment Insurance (UI) when unemployment rates rise, the total amount available for TVEP distribution is reduced. It is counterintuitive to lose funding for training just as more Alaskans are out of work. Now, more than ever, institutions receiving TVEP funds need these monies to help retrain unemployed Alaskans and continue the mission of providing technical and vocational education and training to Alaskans.

I urge you to support HB 141 (or SB85) for TVEP reauthorization at the current distribution levels and thank you for your continued support of career and technical education and training in Alaska.